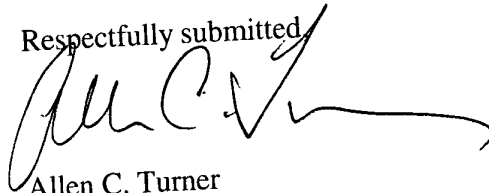


Remarks

The application is to be amended as previously set forth. All amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer. All amendments were made to conform the claims to U.S. requirements. Applicants do not disclaim any subject matter in the claims and the amendments should not be construed as narrowing the subject matter of the claims.

If questions exist after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact the applicants' representative at the address or telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted



Allen C. Turner
Registration No. 33,041
Krista Weber Powell
Registration No. P- 47, 867
Attorney for Applicants
TRASK BRITT, PC
P. O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: (801) 532-1922

Date: January 9, 2001

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